

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

150142Z Jun 05

ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	CEA-01	CG-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00
	INL-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	EB-00	EXME-00	OIGO-00
	E-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	FMC-01	VC-00	FRB-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-00	OMB-00	NIMA-00	EPAU-00	ACE-00
	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	FMP-00
	BBG-00	EPAE-00	IIP-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/003W

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FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8040  
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY  
NOAA NMFS SILVER SPRING MD

UNCLAS HANOI 001417

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/BCLTV, OES - TINKHAM/GOLDBERG  
NOAA FOR REGULATORY AFFAIRS/REBECCA LENT  
NOAA FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS - JUSTI  
NOAA FOR INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES - MORAN/SCHNEIDER  
NOAA FOR FISHERIES ALASKA CENTER/LOH-LEE LOW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EFIS](#) [EIND](#) [ETRD](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: U.S.-VIETNAM FISHERIES BILATERAL TALKS: FURTHER  
COOPERATION DESIRED

Do not post on the internet.

1. Summary. National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Deputy Administrator for Regulatory Affairs Dr. Rebecca Lent led a four-person NOAA delegation to attend the U.S.-Vietnam Fisheries Bilateral talks in Hanoi on May 23-24, 2005. Both parties highlighted the good cooperation between Vietnam and United States on fisheries issues and pledged future scientific cooperation in four main areas: fisheries oceanography; satellite remotely sensed oceanographic data; coral reef research; and sea turtle satellite tracking. The Vietnamese Ministry of Fisheries (MOFI) also stated that it will voluntarily impose a 1.7 million ton harvest cap on the offshore fishing industry and that its top priority in Vietnam is developing the country's aquaculture industry. End Summary.

2. On May 23-24, NOAA's NMFS Dr. Rebecca Lent led a four-person NOAA delegation to Hanoi to attend the U.S.-Vietnam Fisheries Bilateral talks in Hanoi on May 23-24, 2005. Other members of the delegation included Dr. Gary Loh-Lee Low, Senior Fisheries Biologist; Mr. Greg Schneider, Trade Specialist; and Mr. Patrick Moran, Foreign Affairs Specialist. Embassy S&T Officer accompanied the U.S. team to all of its meetings. The Vietnamese delegation was led by Dr. Vu Van Trieu, Acting Director General, International Cooperative Department, MOFI. Representatives from MOFI and NMFS reported on the status of scientific exchanges between the two countries, including in the areas of stock assessment methodology, sea turtle tagging, fisheries oceanography and remote satellite sensing data.

3. The United States presented an overview of the U.S. and international fisheries industry and explained the structure of the U.S. fishery management and regulatory system. MOFI stated that its top fisheries priority is developing Vietnam's aquaculture industry, especially shrimp and seafood exports. MOFI also stated that it will voluntarily impose a 1.7 million ton harvest cap on the offshore fishing industry to prevent overfishing of its natural resources. MOFI admitted, however, that it lacked the human resource and management capacity to protect its natural resources and requested U.S. support to conduct fishery observer training, seafood safety and inspection seminars, and vessel safety enforcement training. In response to U.S. country of origin labeling requirements for seafood products entering the U.S., MOFI asked NOAA for further guidance to comply with this requirement.

4. Both parties agreed that further cooperation in the areas of visits, training workshops and support for fisheries conferences were important. However, NOAA stressed that funding for such endeavors was limited and that it could only act as a "facilitator" to identify funding sources with other U.S. government agencies, research institutions, and U.S. marine science universities. Vietnam specifically requested technical assistance in the development of Specific Pathogen Free shrimp stocks for

aquaculture, genetic work on aquaculture species, and import assistance for live mollusks. MOFI also suggested that NOAA facilitate a Vietnamese fisheries group to visit Hawaii in Winter 2006. The U.S. agreed to host the Vietnamese fisheries group during the upcoming Western Central Pacific Fishery Council (WestPac) meeting and promised to introduce the group to the Pacific Island Regional Office, Pacific Island Science Center, NOAA offices, and possibly the University of Hawaii. The U.S. also mentioned that during the proposed it will make presentations about the legal aspects of fisheries management in the United States, including the role of legislations, implementing regulations, guidelines, and community-based management.

15. The delegation also discussed the upcoming 2006 workshop in Vietnam on "Techniques for Research and Survey Methodology on Marine Resources." This workshop, scheduled just prior to the Pacific Rim Conference on March 20, 2006, will be expanded to include a broader participation by experts from Asia. The United States promised provide logistical support. Both Dr. Bill Hogarth and the Vietnamese Minister of Fisheries will be the honorary co-chairs and Dr. Vu Van Trieu and Dr. Rebecca Lent will be the co-chairs for the Pacific Rim Conference. The U.S. will also provide support for Vietnam to host an APEC Fisheries Working Group on community-based management in 2006. Pending the availability of scientists and funding, four specific scientific projects both parties agreed to pursue

were: 1) fisheries oceanography; 2) satellite remotely sensed oceanographic data; 3) coral reef research; and 4) sea turtle satellite tracking.

16. The United States also requested Vietnam's support and commitment in implementing several international and regional agreements, including the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the FAO International Plan of Action and Sea Turtle Guidelines, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. MOFI officials were aware of these agreements and understood that participation in these forums would help ensure the goals of effective stewardship of marine resources. However, MOFI made no firm commitment to implementing these agreements during the bilateral meeting.

17. This cable was cleared by Patrick Moran, NOAA.

MARINE

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